

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** An optical coupler comprising:
 a spherical lens; and
 an aspherical lens configured to directly contact an optical fiber; and
 wherein said lenses are situated in the same optical path.
2. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein:
 said spherical lens comprises a glass material; and
 said aspherical lens comprises a non-glass material.
3. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein said spherical lens is a ball lens.
4. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 3, wherein said aspherical lens comprises a plastic material.
5. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 4, wherein said aspherical lens is approximately concave.
6. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 4, wherein said aspherical lens is approximately convex.
7. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein said aspherical lens is a molded plastic lens.

8. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 6, wherein said aspherical lens is a molded plastic lens.
9. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 7, wherein said aspherical lens is injection molded.
10. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 8, wherein said aspherical lens is injection molded.
11. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 3, wherein:
a light source is situated proximate to said spherical lens; and
an optical medium is situated proximate to said aspherical lens;
12. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein light from the light source may propagate through said spherical lens and said aspherical lens, respectively.
13. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 12, further comprising a window situated between the light source and said spherical lens.
14. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 13, wherein the optical medium is an optical fiber.
15. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the light source is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser.
16. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 15, wherein the optical fiber is single mode.

17. **(Previously Presented)** An optical coupling system comprising:
a spherical ball lens comprising a glass material; and
an aspherical lens comprising a plastic material; and
wherein said spherical ball lens and said aspherical lens are situated on a common optical axis.
18. **(Original)** The system of claim 17, wherein said aspherical lens is coupled to an optical fiber.
19. **(Canceled)**
20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Currently Amended)** A coupling means comprising:
means for spherically focusing light from a light source;
means for aspherically focusing light from said means for spherically focusing light; and
~~means for inputting light into an optical medium configured to guide the aspherically focused light~~ from said means for aspherically focusing light, the optical medium contacting the means for aspherically focusing light.

22. **(Original)** The coupling means of claim 21, wherein:
the light source is a laser; and
the optical medium is a fiber.

23. **(Original)** The coupling means of claim 22, wherein:
the laser is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser; and
the fiber is a single mode optical fiber.

24. **(Original)** The coupling means of claim 23, wherein said means for spherically focusing light conveys more light power than said means for aspherically focusing light.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The coupling means of claim 24, wherein:
said means for spherically focusing light uses material including glass for focusing light;
and
said means for aspherically focusing light uses material including plastic for focusing light.

26. **(Previously Presented)** A method for coupling light, comprising:
spherically focusing light from a light source resulting in a first portion of light having a
first focal point on an optical axis and a second portion of light having a second
focal point on the optical axis; and
aspherically focusing the first portion of light and the second portion of light resulting in
the first and second portions of light having a common focal point at a point of
contact between an aspherical lens and an optical medium.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 26, wherein:
spherically focusing the light from the light source is effected by a ball lens; and
aspherically focusing the first and second portions of light from the ball lens is effected
by an aspherically-shaped lens.

28. **(Original)** The method of claim 27, wherein the common focal point is at a place of
an optical medium.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 28, wherein:
the ball lens comprises a glass material; and
the aspherically-shaped lens comprises a plastic material.

30. **(Original)** The method of claim 29, wherein:
the light source is a laser; and
the optical medium is an optical fiber.

31. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein:
the laser is a vertical cavity surface emitting light source; and
the optical fiber is a single mode fiber.

32. **(Currently Amended)** An optical coupler comprising:
an aspherical lens on an optical axis; and
a spherical lens on an optical axis; and
wherein:
said aspherical lens is proximate to immediately precedes or follows an optoelectronic element; and
said spherical lens is proximate to immediately precedes or follows an optical medium.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 32, wherein:
said aspherical lens comprises a plastic material; and
said spherical lens comprises a glass material.

34. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 33, wherein said spherical lens is a ball lens.

35. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 34, wherein:
said optoelectronic element is a light source; and
said optical medium is an optical fiber.

36. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 35, wherein the light source is a laser.

37. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 36, wherein:
the laser is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser; and
the optical fiber is single mode fiber.

38. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 34, wherein:
the optoelectronic element is a detector; and
said optical medium is an optical fiber.

39. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 38, wherein said optical fiber is single mode fiber.

40. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 38, wherein said optical fiber is multimode fiber.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the aspherical lens includes a first side that is approximately concave and configured to receive an optical signal and a second side that substantially flat.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein the aspherical lens includes a substantially flat portion that is configured to directly contact the optical fiber.